

The Morning Astorian.

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THE BOERS BEGIN FORWARD MOVEMENT

General Advance Has Been commenced and Laing's Neck is Occupied---Members of Cape House Assembly Petition Queen.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN FORWARDS REPLY

Imperial Government Unable to Adopt Suggestion of Petitioners ---Fears That Whites Will be Massacred Should Hostilities be Prolonged.

LONDON, Oct. 5.—The Daily Telegraph has the following dispatch from Newcastle, Natal, dated yesterday:

"The Boers advance began today with a general movement of artillery. The Boers are occupying Laing's Neck, and now hold the mountains to the south of Volksrust. There are no British troops nearer than Lady Smith, and preparations are being made to abandon Natal from the frontier to Glencoe. The inhabitants of Newcastle met today and decided not to attempt to defend the town in the event of a Boer advance in force. General Simons is preparing to evacuate within 24 hours. The people are crowding the trains at Lady Smith."

PETITIONS THE QUEEN.

LONDON, Oct. 5.—A petition to Queen Victoria, signed by 28 members of the Cape House assembly, has been forwarded through the British high commissioner, Sir Alfred Milner, pointing out the petitioners, who are related by blood and through marriage to the residents of the Transvaal, are materially interested in the maintenance of peace, and urging abandonment of warlike measures "as the Transvaal is now fully awakened to the wisdom of liberal concessions," and praying her majesty to appoint a commission forthwith to confer with the Boers, as the petitioners are convinced that if the present franchise act is inadequate the Transvaal government is prepared to make further concession to the Uitlanders.

Today Secretary of State for the Colonies Chamberlain sent the following reply:

"The Imperial government is not unmindful of the sympathy and interest of British subjects of Dutch descent in South Africa. One of the main objects of the Imperial policies is to secure for the non-Dutch inhabitants of the Transvaal rights and privileges similar to those enjoyed by the Dutch in the Cape colonies. The Imperial government has shown the Transvaal every consideration consistent with this object, and deeply regrets that efforts for a peaceful settlement have hitherto been unsuccessful. The Imperial authorities are unable to adopt the suggestion of petitioners for the reasons stated in a note to the Transvaal, September 21. In view of the refusal of the Transvaal to entertain that moderate and conciliatory offer, the Imperial authorities have been compelled to formulate their own proposals regarding a final settlement, which will shortly be communicated to the Transvaal."

The second edition of the Standard and Diggers News, the Boer organ, publishes the following dispatch from Johannesburg, dated yesterday:

"It is expected that 20,000 burghers from the Transvaal and the Orange Free State will be on their respective borders this evening (Wednesday), should hostilities be protracted there is much fear that the Zulus, the Matabelles and the Basutos will rise against the whites and that massacres and disasters will follow. The Zulu chiefs have been summoning their tribesmen from Rand for weeks past."

Stories of outrages committed by the Boers upon refugees from the Transvaal continue to pour in.

NO WAR PROBABLE

Not Believed In New York That Kruger Will Press England Too Far.

NEW YORK, Oct. 5.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London says:

Prominent men connected with the military and other services now declare that there will be no hostilities with the Transvaal, but that matters will be adjusted at the last moment. The reasons for their confidence in the maintenance of peace are not apparent to outsiders, who cannot understand how an outbreak of war can be prevented. Public opinion also reflects this optimistic view, although no intelligible reason can be given for the reaction against the war feeling which has prevailed for the last three weeks. Kruger's delay in striking the British garrison when it was weakest has tended to convince some journalists that he will not open hostilities and that he may consent to a conference if he is assured that England's fresh demands, when presented, are a complete list of grievances, and that no new issue will be reached.

The satisfactory issue of the Venezuela arbitration is also a timely object lesson which influences public judgment. While the reaction against mill-

tarism may be only theory, it encourages the means of the peace party to renew their efforts and make much of Sir William Vernon Harcourt's conversion to their views. The report of a liberal conference at Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman's house is an exaggeration. It was a small meeting of a few friends.

SITUATION UNCHANGED.

Great Britain, However Continues to Make Active Preparations.

LONDON, Oct. 5.—While there is no diminution in the flood of dispatches from South Africa, recording with almost tiresome iteration the military preparations and movements of both sides, with all kinds of accurate and inaccurate rumors and speculation. The real situation remains unchanged. It is evident that strong efforts are still being made to preserve peace, simultaneously with a determined energy to be prepared for any emergency.

It is expected that 5,000 reserves will be called out tomorrow.

In the meantime it is interesting to note that neither side shows anxiety to precipitate a conflict.

DEMAND FOR IRON IMMENSE

The Entire Product Up to Next Summer Has Already Been Engaged.

NEW YORK, Oct. 5.—Reviewing the situation in the iron and metal trade, the Iron Age will say today:

Interest continues to center in the pig iron market, in which there is accumulating evidence of the fact that the entire product up to the summer of 1900 will be urgently needed. The event of the week has been the purchase by the leading Chicago interest of about 100,000 tons of Bessemer pig in the valleys and elsewhere for delivery during the first half of 1900. In addition to these sales, a leading interest in Pittsburg has taken 30,000 tons, delivery to begin at once, and a valley plant has contracted for 20,000 tons for the first half. Altogether, at least 175,000 tons have been sold in the central west during the past week.

In foundry irons, the demand continues quite active, and while occasionally new irons are seeking buyers for future delivery at some concession, the market is strong for the whole of the six months of 1900. Producers are quite generally behind in deliveries, and the scarcity of spot iron continues.

It is hoped, however, that during the course of the winter, the furnaces will be able to catch up. There is a report that some southern iron is being offered, to be returned from England.

It looks as though the reports of sales of English low phosphorus pig had been exaggerated so far as their magnitude is concerned. Well-informed parties in the trade are unable to trace more than about 4,000 tons. We note a sale of 5,000 tons of eastern low phosphorus pig at \$28.75 at the furnace.

The steel situation is rather perplexing. One very large consuming interest has been forced to lay idle a number of plants, and is reported to be drawing quite heavily on stocks of manufactured goods. Report has it that two recent contracts call for close to 200,000 tons. The price basis for a good deal of the steel being contracted for next year is about \$33.

Last week the makers had a conference in this city, the result of which was that \$33 east and west is being named on orders for next year.

It is estimated that the total tonnage already booked for next year is about 250,000 tons, about equally divided between eastern and western mills. This includes some recent western orders, among which may be mentioned 50,000 tons for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy and 25,000 for the St. Paul railroad. The great trunk lines east of Chicago have as yet placed no orders, nor have the majority of the railroads arranged for their requirements. Negotiations with the Pennsylvania and other large systems are now proceeding, however.

In other directions, too, the railroad demand continues to absorb large quantities of bars and car material. The Illinois Steel company denies that it has entered into a contract with the Pressed Steel company for 400 tons of plates per day. It seems that many are beginning to feel that it is the best policy to await developments.

FLEET OF WATSON'S TO BE REINFORCED

Acting on Advice of Admiral Dewey, Cruisers Brooklyn, Nashville and New Orleans Ordered to Manila.

PLOT TO DESTROY BUILDINGS IN MANILA

Residences of Governor-General and Archbishop Were to be Burned But Plot Failed—Aguinaldo Orders Soldiers in Northern Provinces to Resume Farming.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5.—The navy department was busily engaged today in arranging to reinforce the fleet in the Philippines as suggested yesterday by Admiral Dewey at his conference with the president.

The Cruisers Brooklyn, New Orleans and Nashville have been ordered to proceed via Suez canal as soon as possible, and the United States steamer Badger has been ordered to go from San Francisco.

PLOT TO BURN BUILDINGS.

Archbishop of Manila Notifies General Otis—Wheeling Bombarde St. Vincent.

MANILA, Oct. 5.—The archbishop of Manila has notified General Otis that there was a plot on foot to burn the residences of the governor-general and the archbishop, together with several government buildings and banks, but the plot failed to materialize, possibly because of a display of force.

The United States gunboat Wheeling, from Vancouver, March 2, via Honolulu, while passing St. Vincent, in Northern Luzon, shot down a Filipino flag. The Filipino fired a volley at the Wheeling's men who were sleeping on the deck and the Wheeling bombarded the settlement.

ORDERED TO THEIR FARMS.

Aguinaldo Using Soldiers for Alternate Shifts on Farms and Under Arms.

MANILA, Oct. 5.—Aguinaldo, according to a report brought to Manila today by a Dominican friar from the north, has issued orders to the Filipino soldiers in the northern provinces to return to their towns and resume farming. This story lacks confirmation, but the rumor may be in accordance with Aguinaldo's policy of keeping the country as productive as possible, using his men in alternate shifts on farms or under arms.

Daguapan and San Fernando and Delincinet, which are under the guns of United States warships, are supposed to be evacuated. It is alleged that the evacuation order calls upon the male inhabitants to be orderly in case of the arrival of American troops, and expresses the hope that the Americans will protect the towns.

MILITARY POST DISCONTINUED.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 5.—The secretary of war has issued an order discontinuing the military department of the Gulf and merging it into the department of the East, under command of Major-General Merritt, with headquarters at New York.

THIRTY-NINTH LEAVES.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 5.—The transports Para, Zealandia and Valencia sailed tonight for Manila with the Twenty-ninth regiment and a large number of recruits.

GOING TO CANADA.

LONDON, Oct. 5.—It is announced that Lord and Lady Aberdeen will shortly go to Canada.

CHICAGO NEEDS REPAIRS

Olympia Discharging Ammunition and Will Go Out of Commission at Boston.

NEW YORK, Oct. 5.—A special to the Herald from Washington says: Reports received by the navy department from Captain Cooper, commanding the Chicago, showing that that vessel is in need of repairs, will delay Rear Admiral Schley in the hoisting of his flag. The repairs to the Chicago will require almost two months, and the vessel will not be ready to start south until the latter part of November. The secretary left tonight with the president, but he has made no provision for additional vessels for the South Atlantic station.

Captain Lambertson, commanding the cruiser Olympia, received orders after he had landed the ammunition at the naval magazine in New York harbor, to proceed with the Olympia to the Boston navyyard, where the vessel will be placed out of commission.

Captain Lambertson desires duty in Washington, although he would not be averse to spending another year at sea in order to make up the usual sea tour of an officer of his grade.

Rear Admiral Sampson will resume command of the squadron and proceed with it to Hampton Roads. He will probably be relieved of the command at that point.

Formal orders were issued today to Captain Barker, formerly commanding the battleship Oregon and the Asiatic squadron, directing him to assume command of the Norfolk navyyard.

Captain Barker will be promoted to the grade of rear admiral upon the retirement of Rear Admiral Howison.

MINNESOTANS LEAVE FRISCO.

Will Go East From Portland Over N. P.—South Dakota Volunteers Mustered Out.

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 5.—The Minnesota volunteers started for home today. They will be given 24 hours to stay in Portland and will then resume their eastward journey over the Northern Pacific.

The South Dakota volunteers were mustered out today and paid off. They will leave for their homes Sunday, traveling over the Southern Pacific to Portland, thence east on the Northern Pacific.

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